



Mansfield Middle School Association

September 4, 2013 Minutes

In Attendance: Thanh Nguyen, Candace Morell, Fred Baruzzi, Heather Tamsin, Marie Hodrinsky, Lisa Drzewiecki, Jean Johnson, Diane Briody, Melissa Belden, Gerline Berger-Walliser, Jackie Soroka, Patty Braithwaite, Brian Anderson, Bridgett Ray, Celine Demers-Schiffler

1. **Call to Order:**

- Marie H. called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- Everyone was asked to introduce himself or herself.

2. **Special Guest Speaker(s):** Fred Baruzzi

- Security – Doors will be locked at all times. Arrivals after 8:10am must enter through side entrance. Sandwich boards are up during school hours to direct people.
- Greenhouse – a green house was erected outside the 5th grade ‘wing’ with a door leading from Nora Dickenson’s room to the greenhouse.
- Chorus Room – acoustics were purchased and will be installed soon
- Fred will be in attendance at Open House on 9/19

3. **Approval of the minutes:**

- Diane Briody motioned to approve minutes of June 2013 meeting. Jean Johnson 2nd the motion.

4. **Officer Reports:**

- **President, Marie Hodrinsky:**
 - MMSA is open to new ideas and input. Don’t be afraid to volunteer time as we’re a team and there to support each other.
- **Vice-president, Jean Johnson:**
 - No report
- **Treasurer, Lisa Drzewiecki:**
 - Budget - \$7,959.80 in account (see 9/4/2013 budget for details and this year’s budget projections)
 - Grants – collecting grant request. Committee will meet mid-October to discuss and then make recommendations at the November meeting
 - Of the grants requested about ½ of the monies are awarded due to lack of funds in the MMSA budget
 - Doug Perkins has requested use of the \$1000 in the Enrichment budget to use for greenhouse supplies. He also asked if he could use the \$1000 from last year (2012- 2013SY) since it was not used. We discussed not allowing any budget items to roll over year to year. Candace will ask Doug to get a request for funds together and we’ll see if we can give

the immediate funds he needs for hydroponic tables and the higher priority materials needed right away as they want to make the green house usable ASAP. We'll see if we can have part covered though a grant as well as use this year's enrichment monies.

- **Secretary, Sandy Hill:** *Not in attendance.*

5. **Administrator's Report: (Thanh Nguyen)**

- Reported everything is going smoothly so far for the start of the new school year.
- Mike DiCicco, grade 5, was named 2013 – 2014 Teacher of The Year for Mansfield and was selected as a semi-finalist for the CT teacher of the year. Congratulations to Mr. DiCicco!!
- CMT results should be mailed to parents this week
- **New Staff Updates:**
 - Christina Conoscenti – long term sub for school counselor Kristina Lee
 - Diane Glasmann – new French and ELL teacher who recently taught French as E.O. Smith
 - Ashley Zeppa – new grade 7 Social Studies and Lit. who recently taught History at Killingly High School
 - Jessica Mongeau – new grade 8 math teacher
- **Transfers:**
 - Lisa Corriveau – coming from Goodwin as our Band Director
 - Carey Jordan – IA from Goodwin
- **Current Staff Updates:**
 - Jen McMunn – replaced Kelly Brouse as the new Enrichment teacher
 - Elyse Poller – on sabbatical
 - Kristina Lee – on maternity leave
 - Mrs. Bain – 6th grade science teacher, resigned her position. No new hire as current staff can accommodate the student number of this class this year.
 - Heather Tamsin – new staff – MMSA liaison for this year.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - 9/11 – Wednesday, 6th Grade Pot Luck Picnic
 - 9/12 & 9/26 – BOE meetings @7:30pm
 - 9/15 – German Exchange students arrive!!
 - 9/19 – Thursday, MMS Open House @6:30pm
 - 9/25 – School Photo Day
 - 9/27 – 9/29 – Fiddlehike to the White Mountains on Mt. Pierce. The violinists and cellists have 2 opportunities to perform at the AMC lodge at historic Mt. Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, NH. Michael Carbonneau directs this adventure.
 - 9/30 – Flu Clinic – 3 – 6:30pm

6. **Faculty Report, Heather Tamsin:**

- 9/11 – 6th Grade Pot Luck Picnic – 6th grade team asked MMSA to help out that night. MMSA will man a table outside the music wing doors to let folks in to use the facilities, hand out 6th grade ‘text-to-parents’ pilot flyers, help with clean up and make contact with families. They also requested to borrow the 2 MMSA drink coolers.

7. **Old Business:**

- 8th Grade Promotion – MMSA Donation – discussion regarding what the 8th grade team would like to do with the \$600 that MMSA had in budget that was originally going to be used for corsages but did not get used for that. We did use \$40 for supplies and food for that night. Diane B. had a discussion with Donna Stratton last year to see if they wanted corsages for last year’s promotion. She said no and would think about what to use the money for instead. Lisa D. contacted Donna this school year to see if they had any ideas yet so we could move on this in the near future. Some ideas mentioned were: park bench with class dedication, sculpture for sculpture garden with class dedication, donation of books to library

8. **New Business:**

- Open House – 9/19 – MMSA is looking for volunteers to help setup and help with donations table(s), Spirit Wear table and committee sign-up sheets.
 - We’ll have a display to show parents where the monies raised throughout the year actually goes.
 - We’ll be kicking off the Spirit Wear program this night by displaying samples of the items available and handing out order forms

9. **Fundraising:**

- Direct Giving Campaign: Kicks off at Open House and runs throughout school year
- Spirit Wear Program: Kicks off at Open House and runs through 1st or 2nd week in Oct. Maybe another program in spring?
- Holiday Fundraiser: Holiday wreaths, Nature’s Way, Earth Candles, bulbs?? Looking for parent/team input to help make decision.
 - Candace wondered if the wreaths might conflict with the EO Smith tree sale?? Logistics of getting them delivered without drying out or damaging. Diane B. expressed concern as not everyone celebrates Christmas although we talked about offering something to accompany this, see above. Some companies offer multi-Holiday selections and not just Christmas stuff!
- Munson’s Candy: To be run in time for Easter
- Mixed Bag: To be run in spring. Stacy Geist!
- Box Tops: Melissa Belden offered to be the Box Top Coordinator this school year, thank you Melissa!
 - The program works so that schools can actually submit bundles at anytime but they only cut checks 2x’s a year; in December and April. For the December check they pay out for all Box Tops received from March 2nd – Nov 1st and for the April check they pay out for one received from Nov 2nd – March 1st.

- Melissa Ottman's class is bundling the box tops received by UCONN kitchens and via school. Marie H. asked if her class had time to bundle more prior to the December check.
- Candace and Diane B. will coordinate how to pick up the Box Tops from the UCONN dinning halls. Suzanne O'Keefe is the UCONN contact.
- Big Y Express/Stop & Shop Rewards: MMS is signed up for this. (***Post Meeting Note: Stop & Shop needs to be renewed, Kelly Young looking into for Marie H.***)
- SCRIP: Marie H. will ask Kim Clark if she's interested in running this again this year.

10. Other Business:

- MMS Fall Harvest Festival: carry forward
- MMS Back to School Picnic: carry forward
- Jean J. asked about whether there are any all-school events where all kids can participate, like a dance. Candace said they do have all-school activity nights where they do a variety of things like karaoke, basketball, dancing, movie night, etc....
- Marie H. asked Candace and Thanh what their thoughts were about MMSA involvement and indicated that the teachers and staff should ask for our help and involvement when/where needed. We're here to support and help!

11. Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at around 8:05 PM

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 2nd. A request for agenda items will be sent about one week prior to the meeting with the final agenda to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Hodrinsky

President

(pending approval at our next meeting)